

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/765,302

Applicant(s)

MAEDA, NORIHIRO

Examiner

Art Unit

Paul Ip

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on 1/27/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/27/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Paul Ip
Primary Examiner
AU 2837

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 has been carefully considered with a given meaning for all limitations recited in the claim in terms of "means plus function" and in view of the specification of the invention under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

The patent/publication to Murakami (6,831,432 or 2003/0102833) discloses motor driving device and motor driving method. The brake mode switching signal production means detect the number of revolution per unit time of a rotor according to a change in a positional relationship between motor windings of a plurality of phases and the rotor so as to output first and second brake mode switching signals for selecting either a short brake mode or a reverse brake mode for braking the rotation of the rotor based on the number of revolutions. Whereas, claim 1 of the invention requires "a plurality of comparing means" for comparing a terminal potential of each of the multi-phase windings with a middle potential of the multi-phase windings, and "driving timing signal generating means" for generating a timing signal for outputting each of the output signals based on a result of the comparison carried out by each of the comparing means; and "rotation number detecting means" for detecting the number of rotations of the electric motor based on the result of the comparison obtained by the comparing means, wherein when the rotation of the electric motor is to be stopped, the driving timing signal generating means is controlled to apply "a reverse rotation brake" until the number of rotations of the electric motor is reduced to be a predetermined number of rotations by the rotation number detecting means, and the driving timing signal generating means is then controlled to apply "a short brake" until the rotation of the electric motor is stopped. Claim 1 is interpreted in view of the specification and figure 1 of the invention. The plurality of comparing means, driving timing signal generating means, and rotation number detecting means are structural different from Murakami. Furthermore, Murakami teaches or suggests to output first and second brake mode switching signals for selecting either a short brake mode or a reverse brake mode for braking the rotation of the rotor. Whereas, claim 1 requires when the rotation of the electric motor is to be stopped, the driving timing signal generating means is controlled to apply a reverse rotation brake until the number of rotations of the electric motor is reduced to be a predetermined number of rotations by the rotation number detecting means, and the driving timing signal generating

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means is then controlled to apply a short brake until the rotation of the electric motor is stopped. Murakami is neither taught nor suggested the “means plus function” as recited in claim 1 of the invention.

The references of the record disclose motor reverse or braking control of the motors. The references of the record fail to teach or suggest the means plus function as recited in claim 1 of the invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

DRAWINGS

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) is required in this application because the drawings filed on 1/27/2004 are informal drawings including foreign language. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Ip whose telephone number is (571)-272-1941. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6:30 am to 3:00 pm Eastern time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin, can be reached on (571)-272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Ip". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ip".

Paul Ip
Primary Examiner
AU 2837